

The Office Action states

Heideman discloses two resilient members (18 and 20) connected with the rod, between the lever and the arms, for the purpose of varying the resistance provided to the movement of each arm member toward its closed position.

Therefore, it would have been obvious ... to provide resilient members, as taught by Heideman, between the lever and arms of Angel et al. in order to vary the resistance in the closed position.

However, as pointed out in the previous response, elements 18 and 20 of Heideman are not resilient members. Instead, they are hydraulic cylinders, which resist motion but do not exert any force when not in motion. Thus they are not equivalent to the springs or rubber bushings, cited as resilient members in the present application, which yield when compressed but provide a continuous reaction force until they are allowed to return to their initial uncompressed or balanced positions.

Further, members 18 and 20 are not connected with a rod between a lever and the arms because the rod and lever are not present in Heideman, but only in Angel et al. Instead cylinders 18 and 20 extend between the Heideman support arm 10b and the arms 12 and 14 in essentially the same positions as the levers and rods of the equalizing mechanism of Angel et al.

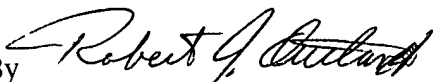
Both Heideman and Angel et al. provide arrangements which are intended to control motion of their electrode carrying arms, so that the electrodes simultaneously contact the opposite sides of workpieces to be welded. Heideman uses the cylinders 18, 20, that provide resistance, which is adjustable to separately control the rate of arm motion so that the electrodes reach the workpieces at about the same time. Angel et al. uses an equalizing mechanism 34, 38a, 38b, to equalize motion of the arms so that the electrodes reach the same centered positions, where the workpieces are supposed to be held, to contact the workpieces at the same time. Thus, both arrangements attempt to accomplish similar results using differing mechanisms.

It is submitted that nothing in either reference suggests any reason why the mechanism of Heideman should be added to the mechanism of Angel et al, since they have similar purposes and neither one suggests any need for mislocation accommodating means, as are provided by the present invention. Thus, there is no basis in the references for the assertion that it would have been obvious to pick the cylinders 18, 20 out of Heideman and insert them between the lever 34 and arms 12, 14 of Angel "to vary the resistance in the closed position", since that is different than the purpose of the cylinders in the Heideman disclosure. Further, such a combination would not meet the terms of applicants claims, since the cylinders 18, 20 are not resilient members.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 3-7 in their present form is respectfully requested.

This paper is believed to be fully responsive to the issues raised in the Office Action and to place this case in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Robert J Outland, Attorney  
Reg. No. 22,197  
(313) 885-1500